



Goose Creek District Newsletter



August 2019

Volume 11, Issue 1

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
Quick Calendar:

- Aug 14 – Roundtable
- Sep 11 – Roundtable
- Oct 9 – Program Launch
- Oct 12-13 – Webelos-o-ree
- Nov 2 – Scouting for Food Distribution
- Nov 9 – Scouting for Food Pickup
- Nov 30 – Recharter Turn In

Newsletter Key:

 Cub Scout Interest

 Boy Scout /
Venturing Interest

 For Everyone

 New Article

Reprinted from www.scoutmastercg.com, September 11, 2013



Nostalgia, Tradition, and the Relevance of Scouting

Whenever two or three Scouters get together talk eventually turns to the relevance of Scouting in 'modern society'.

Some think we've diminished the ideals of 'manliness', traditional patriotism, bootstrap initiative, competitiveness and rigor in achievement but have they really examined what those ideas actually mean? Scouting does not consider that these things are scarce, unobtainable qualities, but that each individual Scout has vast potential to develop them .

We wrangle and argue over measurements; what is 'true' manliness, patriotism, achievement? Instead of a system of measurement Scouting sets a star to travel by: the full realization of each individual Scout's potential. Our principal aim is that individual ideal; interdependent, useful human beings who become active citizens and make the world a better place.

Detractors invoke creeping 'political correctness' and suggest that we have watered down our decisiveness and morality. This old chestnut of an argument was used to condemn innovation and change since the dawn of civilization; "Romans are so trendy and effete – what ever happened to good old Etruscans?" In their opinion all we have to do is reprint the original edition of the Scout handbook and return to our imagined ideal past that, of course, never existed. Nostalgia is pleasant, but it is not history. Our forebears had to muddle through the same sorts of flaws and pressures we encounter. They did their best and so can we.

Scouting has always been, and will always remain, something that principally happens when we are out-of-doors camping and trekking our way through the natural world. This is our tradition, but we don't follow tradition blindly.

We don't go camping as a romantic, aesthetic, throwback to the good old days. We go camping because it is the most useful way to achieve the aims of Scouting. We use patrols and engage youth in leadership not because it's a quaint, anachronistic, tradition but because that's how we achieve the aims of Scouting.

Most importantly we do these things because that is what our Scouts want to do! Despite a century of societal and cultural changes there's not much difference between present day Scouts and those few that camped out on Brownsea island at the dawn of the Scouting movement.

That's our past, present and future all rolled into one.

Our Scouts neither need, nor do they particularly want, big flashy programs and entertainments. We aren't trying to entertain, we want to engage our Scouts.

Scouting is relevant, and it will always be, so long as we don't make it into a historic re-enactment, blindly follow tradition, and resist the temptation to misdirect it's simple intentions.

Scouting is not about recreating the past, we are looking toward the future.

District News

District Website: www.NCACBSA.org/GooseCreek



District Events for 2019-2020



For those who haven't checked out the district events on the NCAC calendar here are the following event dates:

Program Launch – Oct 9

Webelos-o-ree – Oct 12-13

Scouting for Food: Bag/Flyer Distribution Nov 2, Pickup Nov 9

Annual Business Meeting: Dec 18

Freeze-o-ree: TBD

District Pinewood Derby: Mar 7

Spring Camporee: Mar 27-29

Day Camp: TBD



Webelos-o-ree 2019



The date for the Goose Creek's annual Webelos-o-ree is set for October 12-13, 2019 at Camp Snyder. This event is open to all Webelos so mark the date down on your calendar now. Note: Those that are currently Bears will be Webelos this fall and are eligible to attend.

This camping event is designed to show Webelos and their parents what a Scouts BSA troop is all about. The activities will be run by our own troops and can include such things as: Fire building, cooking, monkey bridge, BB shooting and/or archery, first aid, and knife safety. We provide dinner and in the evening there is a campfire run by the Order of the Arrow. For the adults we'll provide plenty of Scout leaders to answer questions about camping, joining a troop, and camping equipment. We will also hold a Webelos to Scout orientation for Arrow of Light Scouts.

The Webelos-o-ree starts off with an opening ceremony Saturday morning and wraps up Sunday with a continental breakfast. For those who don't want to camp over, there are also registration options for staying just for the activity periods and for joining us for dinner and the campfire before going home.

The full information packet for this event can be found at www.ncacbsa.org/goose-creek/webelos-o-ree/

Registration will be open on August 12th at <https://scoutingevent.com/082-29309>

For questions (and maybe answers) please contact Webelosoree@GooseCreekDistrict.org



Troop Participation in the Webelos-o-ree



At the Webelos-o-ree each troop selects an activity/skill that their Scouts teach the Webelos and their parents during a morning and afternoon session. And the cost? Nothing! There is no registration fee for Boy Scouts, even if they camp. The only thing required is a service project to help keep the event running (starting cooking fires, cleanup, food prep, etc.).

If your troop is interested in participating in this year's Webelos-o-ree, even if you were at last year's, please contact Webelosoree@GooseCreekDistrict.org so we can coordinate the activities to be run. We have space for seven troops to camp over and, as always, there is no fee for troops to attend. They just have to supply their own food.

For the past few years we have tried to keep certain activities reserved for the troops that have done them in the past, this has often had us scrambling to fill them in when we finally heard that a troop doing one could not come that year. **This year all activity slots are open and will be given to the first troop that requests them.**

Possible Activities	Availability
Dutch Oven Cooking	Troop 1941
Campfire/Stove Cooking	Troop 997
Fire Building	Troop 1550
First Aid	Troop 998B
Knots	Troop 998G
Monkey Bridge	Open
Knife Safety/Ax Yard	Troop 58
Scout Games (no gaga pit this year)	Open
Survival	Open
Team Building	Open
Range Support (dependent on availability of range supervisors)	Open

We are also looking for some qualified range supervisors and 4-5 Scouts, age 13 and older, and some additional adults who would like to be part of the Webelos-o-ree staff. The service would include helping with the flag ceremonies, running the Webelos challenge event, working the food line for supper, assistance with the campfire, and general "go to" jobs during the day. Meals and work all provided free.

LOL



Why is it that Scouts think a nylon tent is a soundproof booth?



NCAC Commissioner's Retreat



Do Commissioners go on vacation during the Summer? Well, sort of. Goose Creek District Commissioners joined in the NCAC Commissioner's Retreat down in St. Mary's County at St. Mary's College on Friday and Saturday, 28-29 June 2019.

Most Commissioners arrived Friday night to settle in dormitories, relax at the Campus Pub or attend a free local concert at the Campus Bandshell. Class was held all day Saturday at one of the College Classrooms. Topics covered were: Recruiting Commissioners, PreDistrict Commissioner Knowledge (What I wish I knew), Pledge the NCAC Safety Commitment. A review of the District Dashboard, how to conduct a Unit Service Plan. Commissioners and their instructors discussed National Perspectives. Scouter Ben Overby lead a spirited Reflections on Commissioner Service.

Finally, our distinguished Council Commissioner, Rick Rogers, enlightened us with his vision for NCAC Commissioner Corp: Commissioners collaborate as a team and remember, Commissioners own the Journey to Excellence program.

New Scouts BSA Female Troops



Goose Creek District is pleased to announce two new Scouts BSA Female Troops.

Troop 1158 in Ashburn is a linked Troop with Troop 1158B. It meets at Ashburn Presbyterian on Tuesday nights at 7pm. The Scoutmaster is Lynda Clarkson. Contact email is scoutsbsafemale@gmail.com.

Troop 955 in Sterling is in the process of submitting their charter. It is holding organizing meetings at Galilee United Methodist in Sterling on Tuesday nights at 7:30 pm. The Scoutmaster is Suzi Bryant. The organizers are Ann & Tim Kuo. Contact email is info.troop955@alpost150.org.

Troops in Purcellville, Leesburg, and Sterling are still in the process of forming.

Our established & chartered Goose Creek Scouts BSA Female Troops in Ashburn, Leesburg, and South Riding have had a very successful spring program of meetings, hikes, trips, camping, rank advancement, and merit badges. They are all enjoying an active summer, including Summer Camp, and are always welcoming new members.

- For Ashburn Troop 2970G contact SM Karen Rollason, Karen.rollason@gmail.com.
- For Leesburg Troop 998G Contact CC Jen Swain, swainjen@gmail.com.
- For South Riding Troop 1148G Contact SM Stacey Capell, scoutsbsagirls@gmail.com.

If you are interested in connecting with a Female Troop or looking to organize one, please contact Goose Creek Family Scouting Champion, Dave Weitzel, david@weitzel.com, or Todd Bolick, Todd.Bolick@scouting.org for more information, resources, and recruiting materials.



August Roundtable



The August Cub Scout Roundtable will kick off the year with a featured presentation from the Membership Committee on holding an excellent Join Scouting Night (JSN). Training materials will be provided for each Pack to pick-up and take home. Learn from the best on how to boost your Pack with new Lions and Tigers and parents too! Hope to see you there!

To help prepare for this training, please send District Director Todd Bolick your Pack's planned JSN date, time, and location by August 5th



Program Launch



What's a "Program Launch"? Are we sending Scouts into orbit? Not quite, but it is time to start planning your unit program for next year.

Program Launch is run by the District Committee. At the event the various district committees will be on hand to discuss what resources/events they have for you, and local vendors are invited to show what they can do to enhance your program.

Traditionally Program Launch is held in May when the Council has finalized its schedule for the next year and makes it available to the districts. This used to be done with hard copy calendars but is now done on its website. So the District Committee has asked 'Why wait 9 months to give the new leaders who just joined the information that they could use now? We already have the District calendar planned out for the year and now would be a good time to talk to everyone about planning for Day Camp next summer, the Freeze-o-ree, Spring Camporee, and how to start getting ready for Rechartering, JTE, and Friends of Scouting.

So in a break from tradition we will be holding Program Launch on Oct 9th in place of the usual October Roundtable, same place (Leesburg United Methodist Church), same time (7:30 - 9). So bring your new leaders, and your older ones too, and let's get together AND TALK!



2019 Day/Twilight Camp



Move over, Shark Week. Roughly 300 lucky Cub Scouts enjoyed a week "Beneath The Sea" at Day and Twilight Camp this year. They enjoyed learning about the water table, getting hosed down by the fire department, and even visiting with a NAVY Seal diver! The weather spared us from the week of storms we had anticipated, and huge amounts of fun were had by all.

Planning has already started for Day and Twilight Camp next summer, back at the Loudoun County Fairgrounds! Keep an ear to the ground for news of our next great camp.



Troop Participation in the Webelos-o-ree

A group of Northern Virginia Scouts made it to the World Jamboree this past weekend. Scouts BSA Girl Troop 998 journeyed west to the Summit Bechtel Reserve for their monthly camp out, and joining them were siblings from Ashburn's Troop 997 and Leesburg Troops 966, 982 and Boys 998.



Commissioners Needed in Goose Creek District



Is your scout aging out of the Scout BSA program? If so, and if you're interested in staying in the Scouting program and willing to help other adults keep their units thriving, then we have a position for you!

The Goose Creek District currently has a shortage of Unit Commissioners to effectively provide quality commissioning service to our units. Our ratio of Units to UCs is too high at this time and we need to get it closer to the ideal ratio of 3:1. Now that BSA is adding young ladies to the program, we need both men and women to help our units through the transition.

So, what is a Unit Commissioner?

A Unit Commissioner (UC) is a volunteer position that serves as a friend to their unit(s), and as a link between the unit and district to ensure Scouts are receiving a quality experience. A UC helps by ...

- Supporting unit growth and retention through the Journey to Excellence program
- Contacting units and capturing their strengths and needs in an on-line tool, and helping their unit develop a Unit Service Plan that enables continuous improvement.
- Linking unit needs to District Operating Committees and other resources
- Supporting timely unit, district and council charter renewals.
- Attending meetings and activities they'd like

For more information, please visit <https://www.scouting.org/commissioners/> For more details on how to become a Unit Commissioner, contact John Witek @ john.witek@goosecreekdistrict.org or call: 571.354.9904.



Report Those High Adventure Treks



If your troop has a crew or two doing one of the BSA high adventure camps this summer we would like to post of a photo of the crew in the newsletter. Just send a photo of the crew and tell us which trek they did. Send it to Newsletter@GooseCreekDistrict.org



“Cheerful Service Chatter”

Chapter News for our Arrowmen

Lodge Website: www.ncacbsa.org/group/OA



Order of the Arrow updates



Recent developments and changes in the Boy Scouts of America have resulted in the need to revise a few policies and procedures of the Order of the Arrow.

Brotherhood eligibility

The change that most likely affects the largest number of Arrowmen is the shortening of the time following completion of the Ordeal membership before one can become a Brotherhood member. Previously ten months, the time in service as an Ordeal member is now just six months until one can take part in a Brotherhood ceremony, signifying full membership in the Order. The other requirements still apply as they did before. Those unsure of those requirements should check with their unit OA Representative or a member of their lodge committee.

Most Scouts who are inducted into the OA complete their Ordeal requirements but don't follow up on their pledge to be of cheerful service and strengthen their commitment to the Order. It's unfortunate that these who choose to *sash and dash* do not avail themselves of the opportunity to take the next step. Shortening the time requirement can help, because the Ordeal experience is still fresh in their minds.

Ceremony updates

The OA has emphasized it intends to continue to honor Native American traditions by continuing to use American Indian regalia in its ceremonies, but policies as to when such regalia can be used are being strengthened and reviewed to ensure respectful treatment. And as female members may be participating in ceremony teams, new guidelines are being published (<https://oa-bsa.org/about/membership/american-indian-clothing-and-symbols>).

Unit representative

The OA Troop Representative youth position of responsibility allows a Scout to be active in both the troop and OA lodge as a liaison providing information and encouraging participation by other Arrowmen. Since membership is now available in crews and ships, the position has been renamed OA Unit Representative. Additional guidance, and presumably position patches, are forthcoming.

“Onward and Upward”

On the Advancement Trail



New Eagles



Congratulations to Goose Creek’s newest Eagles:

Nicholas Balbuena – Troop 982

Alex Downey – Troop 956

John Matthews – Troop 39

Daniel Rhodes – Troop 39

Henry Simmons – Troop 711

Grant Strickland – Troop 711

Bryce Treichel – Troop 1910



Scouts BSA Advancement and Boards of Review for Venturers and Sea Scouts



Two significant changes in the 2019 *Guide to Advancement*, covered in topics 4.3.1.4 and 4.4.0.1, involve Scouts BSA advancement in Venturing crews and Sea Scout ships. Both were made to clarify responsibility for conducting Scouts BSA advancement boards of review.

Venturers and Sea Scouts who earned First Class rank when registered in Scouts BSA will remain qualified to continue with Scouts BSA advancement until their 18th birthday. A Scout may maintain multiple (dual) registration if they choose to do so, and work on advancement in either or both units simultaneously. However, once they have earned First Class rank, Scouts need not remain registered in Scouts BSA in order to continue earning Scouts BSA advancement.

If a youth chooses to register in both Scouts BSA as well as in either a crew or a ship, they may receive credit for work performed in either unit. However, unit leaders, along with the Scout, must decide which leader will oversee the Scout’s BSA advancement. It is important to do this so that completed advancement requirements are properly reported in a timely manner through the BSA’s Internet portal for advancement. The intent is not to limit advancement opportunities but to centralize reporting to avoid discrepancies.

If the qualified Venturer or Sea Scout is not registered in Scouts BSA, then the crew Advisor or ship Skipper will oversee the youth’s Scouts BSA advancement. However, it is important for the Advisor or Skipper to understand that Scouts BSA advancement procedures must be followed, even though the youth may not be separately registered in Scouts BSA troop. For example, advancement boards of review for Star and Life ranks that are held by either the crew or ship committee must be conducted in accordance with Scouts BSA procedures. Eagle Scout boards of review involving Venturers and Sea Scouts will be held according to the local council’s established procedures.

Regardless of whether they are held by a troop, crew, or ship, the procedures for organizing and conducting boards of review for Scouts BSA advancement can be found in Section 8 of the *Guide to Advancement*. In particular, refer to topics 8.0.0.1 through 8.0.1.5.



Go Online for New Cub Scout Preview Adventures



Adventures await Cub Scouts — not only can they find them in their handbooks, but now they can find adventures online.

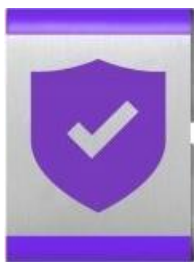
You can find brand-new, online-only Cub Scout adventures, called Preview Adventures. You won't find these adventures in a handbook, at least, not yet. Preview Adventures (www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/preview-adventures/) are limited-time, experimental adventures your Scouts can earn. They will count toward advancement, just like any other elective adventures. Based on feedback from Scouts and Scouters, these adventures could be considered to be part of the next edition of Cub Scout handbooks.

Until then, requirements, den meeting plans and other resources can be found online on the Preview Adventures site. Adventure loops and pins can also only be purchased online at ScoutShop.org. The recognition items for all ranks will be colored purple, signifying they're in preview mode. Ordering the loops and pins and recording advancement in Scoutbook is available.

The ideas for Preview Adventures will come from the BSA, corporate sponsors and you. You can send ideas for possible future adventures to previewadventures@scouting.org.



The Protect Yourself Rules Adventure



One of the two Preview Adventures now available is the Protect Yourself Rules Preview Adventure: www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/preview-adventures/protect-yourself-rules/. The BSA is committed to creating safe environments for Scouts and Scouters, so the BSA partnered with the Barbara Sinatra Children's Center Foundation for the development of this adventure. For more than 30 years, the foundation has provided counseling for victims of physical, sexual and emotional child abuse.

This youth protection adventure uses a curriculum that will help children recognize, respond to and report abuse. It's available for Cub Scouts, from Lion through Arrow of Light.

It may be used as an elective or it can be earned in place of the Cyber Chip requirement for various ranks. This adventure will become required.

Before working on this adventure, the den leader should review the Guide to Safe Scouting Barriers to Abuse: www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss01/.



The Yo-Yo Adventure



Your Scouts can learn physics while having fun with the Yo-Yo Preview Adventure (www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/preview-adventures/yo-yo/), sponsored by Duncan Toys. In this adventure, Scouts — from Wolf through Arrow of Light — can learn how to do a science experiment using a yo-yo, how to do basic tricks and safety rules. Instructional videos are available, so your Scouts can see how to do the experiment and tricks.

This adventure will be an elective with the possibility of becoming a new adventure in the handbook later. Any corporate-sponsored adventure that is approved for the handbook will have the corporate branding removed.



Cub Scout Den Meeting Plans



A number of den meeting plans which have been in development, testing, and limited use for many years have been adapted for the current editions of the Cub Scout Handbooks. Available online (www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/den-meeting-resources/), these plans enable the tracking of adventure completion and Cub Scout advancement, and also give parents access to see their child's progress, as well as giving them suggestions for enrichment activities at home. Use of the den meeting plans will help den leaders plan and conduct their den meetings more easily. The goal is to increase membership retention by making the den meeting experience consistent across the country, well-organized, and aligned with the full content of the Cub Scout program.



Completing Partial Merit Badges



Partials refer to merit badges that for whatever reason are not completed during the summer camp session. The Scout has done some of the requirements towards being awarded the merit badge but for one reason or another, has not been able to cover all of them. Partials may also occur when a Scout starts the badge with a counselor who has since moved away or retired from Scouting while the Scout is still working on the requirements, or most likely, taking a break from working on the requirements.

To finish the merit badge it is up to the Scout to make an appointment with another merit badge counselor to complete the missing requirements. There is no requirement that the original counselor be the one to whom they go or that they have to wait till the next summer camp to complete it. If troop level or district level merit badge counselors exist for the subject badge, the wise Scoutmaster, Troop Advancement Chair, and/or Troop Committee would make certain that the list of those counselors is readily available to the Scout so he knows where to begin the trail to completion.

Important Facts:

- The only expiration date on a partial is the Scout turning 18. Even if a Scout got the partial when they were 11 they can still complete it when they are 17 years and 11 months old.
- The only requirements the Scout needs to do are the ones not signed on the Blue Card. The new merit badge counselor cannot make a Scout redo a signed requirement as a test or not accept it because they suspect the 'quality' of the work done. If it's been signed then it's done, period. Conversely, if all the Scout has is a worksheet from camp of what was done and it wasn't also signed on the Blue Card then it officially wasn't done and it is up to the counselor on whether to accept it or not.

Changes in the merit badge requirements that have occurred since the partial was done are not to be considered. The Scout must complete only the requirements in place when the badge was started. This means that any new requirements do not have to be done, on the other hand, any requirements that were dropped but were not completed do have to be done.



What's the Intent Behind Advancement Requirements?



Several requirements along the trail to the Eagle Scout rank seem very straightforward: demonstrate tying knots, participate in a flag ceremony, sleep in a tent you helped pitch, etc. Others make us wonder. For example, in First Class requirement 4a which requires the use of a handheld GPS unit a question asked is "Can we just use Google Maps to find the route?" The thing to remember is that there's depth to each and every task a Scout must perform. Requirements that might seem mundane or repetitive on the surface actually have tremendous value.

Wayne Huddleston, advancement specialist on the Scouts BSA volunteer committee, provides insight on rank requirements.

"We don't ask a Scout to use a map, compass or GPS just to be sure they learn those skills," Huddleston says. "Rather, completing those requirements helps the Scout understand the importance of accuracy, self-confidence, a spirit of adventure and a willingness to take on new challenges among others."

For First Class requirements 4a. and 4b. specifically, Scouts discover different methods for tackling a similar task — it can be interpreted as a life lesson that multiple solutions for a problem might exist. Along the way, Scouts can gain confidence by solving a problem in more than one way.

Or perhaps, you found a different meaning in those requirements than I just described. That's the point — look beyond the requirement itself and think about how these tasks help youth grow. Don't focus on the few pages in the back of the handbook, but rather the chapters preceding it.

"As the *Guide to Advancement* explains, everything done in the advancement program is designed to educate and expand horizons," Huddleston says. "As Scouts work their way through the requirements, they develop self-confidence, and they reinforce character traits, such as service to others, responsible citizenship, self-reliance and perseverance."

So, about using Google Maps to fulfill requirement 4a?

"Adult leaders need to consider what experience the Scout would be getting from simply entering an address into a mapping application and letting the technology do all the thinking and planning," Huddleston says. "What has the Scout learned by doing that? How is that adding to the Scout's personal growth and development? If they do that, I'm sure they will come to the realization that allowing the technology to do everything does not meet the intent of the requirement."

Aquatics Merit Badge Completion Day



If you end up with partial aquatics merit badges (swimming or lifesaving) at camp this summer then you'll probably want to go to Camp Snyder on Saturday August 17 to complete those requirements. They will have trained BSA aquatics instructors there to work with you on your remaining requirements.

Registration deadline is August 12. Cost is \$10 per person.

Registration: <https://scoutingevent.com/082-25418>



Goose Creek District Merit Badge University - 2020



From Elizabeth Esper, organizer of the 2020 Merit Badge University

In February 2019, we had about 400 Scouts BSA attend the Goose Creek Merit Badge University at Riverside High School in Leesburg on the Saturday of President's Day weekend. I would like to thank again all of the volunteers and our anonymous donors who made this happen. All of the expenses were covered by our generous and anonymous donors. There was not a fee for this Merit Badge University, so this was a very generous event provided by some very kind hearted souls. Every participant in this event should be very thankful to both our donors and all of our volunteers.

I know a lot of established units in our district hold their own merit badge events within their units. However, not all new and established units had or have the ability to hold their own merit badge event.

In February 2019, we were also one of the first districts in our Council to offer a merit badge event for Scouts BSA females. In order to do this within the new Youth Protection guidelines set for Scouts BSA females, I needed YPT trained and experienced adult female volunteers who were 21 years and older to volunteer for this event. Fortunately, I had some great adult women who stepped up to make it happen. They came to me already trained, friendly and helpful to all our youth.

As we approach another exciting year of many activities, I have units who want to mark this as an annual event on their unit's calendar. If you would like to see another Goose Creek District Merit Badge event for Saturday, Feb 15th, 2020 (President's Day Weekend), please contact me at ElizabethEsper@yahoo.com. We do need donors to cover at least the \$400 for renting Riverside High School. I did receive a lot of positive feedback from the merit badge counselors for the Riverside High School location. Many of the counselors said that Leesburg was a good in between location for both Eastern and Western Loudoun Scouters. If you would like to have some advertisement for donating, I can thank you profusely in this newsletter and give you a shout out at the Merit Badge event at the opening ceremony. I patronize businesses that help with scouting.

I also need YPT trained volunteers to help with registration, merit badge counselors, help desk staff, open ceremony staff, hallway staff and all of the other fun stuff! If we are not able to find donors and volunteers in Goose Creek District to hold a Goose Creek District Merit Badge event, there are other merit badge events in our nearby area. There are the Bull Run District Merit Badge University, the Old Dominion District Merit Badge University, the MITRE Scout Engineering Day, the DC Merit Badge Event held at Catholic University of America and many others throughout the year.



Life-to-Eagle Seminar



Keep your eyes open for an announcement of our next 2019 offering of the Life-to-Eagle (L2E) Training for Goose Creek.

These training conferences are primarily targeted for the Life-to-Eagle Advisers & Coordinators at the unit level – but are by no means limited to same. Life Scouts and their parents are strongly encouraged to attend as well. The key goal is to get each of the unit Eagle Advisers up to speed on changes to the process, and some of the district-level mechanics of same. That way, they can help share the message to the Life Scouts in their units on a more frequent basis.

Date: Aug 17, 2019

Time: 10:30-2:30

Place: Loudoun County's Rust Library in Leesburg, Meeting Room B

Then, the last L2E Seminar for 2019 is targeted for mid- November, very likely 11/16; the Saturday after Scouting For Food 'Collection Day'.

Also, if you ARE a Life-to-Eagle Adviser or Advancement Chair for your Unit, and have not attended one of these in Goose Creek within the last 2 years, you **really** should make an attempt to do so. Lots of things have changed over the years, and even the long-standing and experienced L2E Advisers will learn something new.

NCAC Canoe Clinic - Canoeing Class



What: This class includes material from both the Canoeing merit badge and the ACA Level 1: Introduction to Canoeing course, and successful completion earns the Scout the Canoeing merit badge. It is intended to teach effective and efficient paddling skills, for future use in canoe touring or canoe tripping. It is the prerequisite to the canoe-tripping class.

Where/When:

- September 13-15, 2019, Camp William B. Snyder. Registration deadline: Sept 1.

Class Hours: Friday 7pm-10pm, Saturday 8am-5pm, and Sunday 8am-5pm.

Cost: \$35, which includes the Canoeing merit badge pamphlet.

Registration: <https://scoutingevent.com/082-27548>



Why Webelos Should Lead Their Own Meetings



It may seem strange idea with Cub Scouts being so adult lead but new program is laid out so much easier for people to jump in and help in the lower ranks that the boys, with a den chief, could do this as Webelos. To see how one Webelos den did this check out this article at CubScoutIdeas.com:

<https://cubscoutideas.com/6245/should-webelos-lead-their-own-den-meetings/>

Sons of the American Revolution Eagle Recognition



The Colonel James Wood II Chapter of the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution serving Northwestern Virginia invites you to recognize your Eagle Scout with a letter and certificate of recognition for their Court of Honor. Application is easy but can take 4-6 weeks for delivery due to the approval process.

Please provide the following information when ordering a letter and certificate:

1. Scout's Full Name:
2. Scout's Troop Number:
3. Date for Court of Honor (if known):
4. Name/position of person requesting letter and certificate (for accounting purposes):
5. Address for mailing letter and certificate:

You may address all requests and inquiries to:

Robert Fagan
 Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret)
 Chapter Chairman, SAR Scouting Activities
 Email: rjfmf99@hotmail.com

Council / National News

Council Website: www.NCACBSA.org

ScubaJam 2019



What: The ScubaJam Virginia program was created to provide a great SCUBA diving experience to BSA registered youths, boys and girls, ages 11-20. The event has been created by interested divers representing dive shops, scuba training operations, and various BSA Troops and Venturing Crews.

Where: 1754 Timberwood Blvd, Charlottesville, VA 22911

When: Aug 30 – Sep 2, 2019

Cost and Registration: www.scubajam-va.org (Note: ScubaJam is not a BSA sponsored event but rather an event provided for BSA Units and Crews).

Prerequisites for Participation:

- Youth must be 11-20 years of age
- Hold an Open Water Certification Card or be under the training supervision of a current and insured Scuba Instructor (Non Divers are welcome to camp and snorkel. Or better yet – get certified before you arrive!); and
- Be registered with a participating BSA Troop or Crew or other youth group and the group must (1) register themselves and their members with the event, (2) take responsibility for meeting youth protection and control requirements of their respective organizations and (3) must have a dive professional attached to the registration. If you are a small group of less than 6 youth divers or an individual, please contact info@scubajam-va.org. Volunteer staff can assist you with joining another small group and if needed, ensure you have a Dive Pro available for a safe diving experience.



Where is the Best Location for a Joining Event? The Data May Surprise You.



Article contributed by Michael Ramsey, BSA Director of Marketing and Brand Management

As part of the National Service Center's 2018 fall Cub Scout digital media buy, we learned just how important it is to hold joining events in locations that are familiar to parents. Those marketing efforts, which included recruiting messages delivered via paid search, paid social, and Facebook geofenced events, also provided a detailed look at the performance of different types of joining event locations.

We've discussed the highly successful geofencing efforts previously, and we've offered insight on how to use geofencing for Scout recruitment in your community. In addition to driving impressive gains of more than 7 percent in new Cub Scout growth for units that geofenced their joining events, those efforts produced data that confirmed what many may have already suspected: the best place to hold a single-unit joining event is at a school.

Schools are typically familiar locations for parents. Often, their child attends the school, and it is close to home and easy to locate. For families that may be unfamiliar with Scouting or unsure of what to expect, the familiarity of the school location helps ease concerns.

Second to schools, the next most successful recruiting events were those where multiple units collectively held a joining event in a public, non-school location. For instance, these units may have held their collective joining event at a community park. While the data didn't offer specific details on why these multi-unit, centralized joining events did not perform as well as the single-unit events at schools, it is reasonable to believe that families unfamiliar with a location and/or event format may have been less confident about attending such events.

Similarly, events held at religious institutions also drove lower levels of success for Cub Scout recruiting when compared to schools. In fact, statistics showed that events held at schools performed on average 5 percentage points better than events held at religious institutions when looking at new Cub Scouts recruited versus the prior year. Again, the data doesn't offer specifics on why, but it is possible that families may have assumed that if the event was at a church, they had to be members of that church to join that Cub Scout pack. Or, they may be unfamiliar with the location.

Of course, that isn't to say Scouting units shouldn't have regular meetings or hold other activities at religious organizations. Quite the contrary. We rely on religious organizations as valued partners. But when seeking to reach new families who don't understand the relationship Scouting has with its chartered partners, holding a recruiting event at a church, synagogue, or mosque could be confusing.

Instead, consider hosting the joining event at a familiar location like a school, a community center near where the youth attend school, a library, or a park near where the pack meets. And, of course, the pack should continue to be chartered to its religious organization and hold its regular meetings there, if that's the case.

Remember: Families who may not be familiar with Scouting will not necessarily understand the chartered organization concept or how units are organized. Everything is a new experience for them, so it is important to invite families to the adventure of Scouting in ways that are easy, familiar, and welcoming.



Get a Head Start on Fall



It's still summer across the country and we're mostly in that mode of thinking – summer camp or day camp, pack picnics and bike rides, hiking and weekend camping. Families are enjoying vacations, relaxing in the back yard or at the lake, working in the garden or taking in the splendors of summer.

But like the retail world, Scouting works a season ahead, and now is the time to put some thought to the coming fall and the resumption of school and our Scouting programs.

Here are some ideas to help you kick-start your program year:

- Attend Program Launch. It's like a Roundtable, only it provides details on your district and council activities aimed at your Scouts.
- Make sure all your leadership positions are filled. Unsure about who is leading the Bear den? Make some calls and invite a parent to step up to leadership. Are you including the kindergarten Lions in your pack? You need to have an experienced adult leader in place. Scouts want to do things from the get-go; they won't wait around while you figure out who is going to lead them.
- And speaking of adult leadership, make sure everyone is trained! Not just the required Youth Protection Training but position-specific training for den leaders, Cubmaster and assistants, and committee members. While Scoutmasters and assistant Scoutmasters still need in-person training, troop committee members can take their training online. It's easy to do with MyScouting. Unit Key 3 leaders can see everyone's training status and can let untrained leaders know how to get trained. It's time well spent to learn how to do their jobs – especially in Cub Scouts, where most leaders don't have previous Scouting experience. Every Scout deserves a trained leader, so make sure they all have one! Your district may also have in-person training, which you'll find out about at the program kickoff session.
- Remind all of your adult leaders to attend the monthly leader Roundtable that's put on by your district's Commissioner staff. In an hour and a half, they'll learn about council and district activities, meet with fellow leaders and pick up program helps for the following month's theme. Put the Roundtable dates for the year on your pack or troop calendar and don't schedule any unit activities (den, pack, troop or committee meetings) on those nights!
- Check your unit's Scout Me In pin on the BeAScout website to make sure it has accurate contact and meeting information, and if necessary, update it.
- As sure as fall rolls around, popcorn sales will be back. Nearly every council sponsors a popcorn product sale and most units participate as a way to get out in the community and raise some funds for our packs and troops. There's a new app for smartphones that streamlines the sales process. It lets individual Scouts (or their parents) make sales at show & sell locations and door-to-door, take orders, accept credit cards and track progress toward an individual goal.
- Of course, you'll want to establish the dates and reserve your school, church or other facility for your pack meetings, troop meetings and committee meetings if you haven't already done so.

Put these steps in motion so you'll have a smooth start to your program year. It'll save a lot of running around at the last minute and relieve you of a major headache

★ Look Inside the Emails the BSA Sends New Cub Scout and Scouts BSA Families



When welcoming a new family to your pack or troop, nothing beats a personal phone call, email or text message from you.

But when welcoming tens of thousands of new Scouting families into our movement, a series of helpful and cheerful emails from the BSA comes in a close second.

Last year, the BSA launched its “Welcome Series” — a set of customized emails that serves as a friendly hello to Cub Scout volunteers and parents. This year, that series has been expanded to welcome families joining Scouts BSA, too.

Each thoughtfully considered email, sent automatically to new parents and volunteers, gives parents the right information and resources at the right time. It’s all designed to help families get the most out of Scouting.

The emails are sent to all newly joining families and volunteers, whether they registered online or offline.

So far, the numbers are encouraging. Nearly 60,000 people have received at least one of the welcome series emails in the past six months.

Let’s take a closer look at the Welcome Series — what it is, what it isn’t and what’s inside those emails the BSA is sending your pack or troop’s new families.

What it is — and isn’t

The email series is ...

- intended to welcome new parents and volunteers once they register in the Cub Scouts or Scouts BSA program.
- a helpful source of some of the information parents will need to know to get started in a pack or troop.
- a place to build excitement about the program and reinforce a parent’s decision to sign up.
- designed to set the tone for future communication at both the national and council level.

The email series is not ...

- intended to take the place of an email series sent by a local council. At a national level, the BSA can share general information about subjects like uniforms and handbooks but can’t share what makes Scouting unique in your community or information about local events, council camps or service opportunities.
- a replacement for the support you and your fellow volunteers provide to new families through personal interaction.

For more information about when the emails go out and what they look like go to <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2019/06/28/look-inside-the-emails-the-bsa-sends-new-cub-scout-and-scouts-bsa-families/>



Soar toward a new STEM Nova Award with iFLY



Your Scouts can take flight and earn a cool new STEM Nova Award, thanks to a collaboration between iFLY and the Boy Scouts of America.

iFLY indoor skydiving gives Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA members, Sea Scouts and Venturers a chance to fly high while working on the “Up and Away” STEM Nova Award. They’ll focus on physics, specifically learning about fluid dynamics — the movement of gases.

Just book a time for your unit at any of the iFLY locations nationwide for an experience, which includes a lecture, demonstration, classroom time and flights. A field trip at iFLY takes about 3 hours. For online booking form go to www.iflyworld.com/programs/boy-scouts/

The STEM Nova Award is available for Scouts of all ages. iFLY’s STEM program can cater to anyone, including those with physical or cognitive challenges. It’s a program that has educated more than a quarter of a million youth since its inception, providing a really cool and fun way to learn about science, technology, engineering and math.

Wind turbines feed air through a flight chamber where Scouts, donning flight suits and helmets, can feel like they’re skydiving as they’re lifted into the air.

Parents should sign any required consents, releases, risk acknowledgments or waivers of liability on behalf of their children. This is not a unit leader’s responsibility. Check more BSA guidelines for indoor skydiving at www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/indoor-bodyflight/.

iFLY anytime

Scouts can come fly anytime they want and receive a 15% discount. They must be in uniform or show their Scout membership card at the tunnel to receive discount on any first-time flyer package. Your discounted visit doesn’t have to be during a unit-sponsored event.



How You Can Welcome Families Moving from LDS Units to Your Pack or Troop



Last year The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints announced it is bringing its youth programs in-house, meaning the Church will no longer charter Scout units beginning Jan. 1, 2020.

Mati Mayfield, dedicated volunteer from the BSA’s Utah National Parks Council, has a plan to welcome those families into community-based packs and troops. This advice didn’t come from thin air. Mayfield has hit the trail to talk with Church members and fellow Scouting volunteers. And because a Scout is helpful and kind, she’s sharing what she’s learned at

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2019/07/30/how-you-can-welcome-families-moving-from-lds-units-to-your-pack-or-troop/>

How to Join the BSA Contingent at Scouting Events in Brazil or Poland in 2020



The signature event of international Scouting is the World Scout Jamboree, held every four years. This summer's World Scout Jamboree at the Summit Bechtel Reserve will be the first on U.S. soil since 1967.

But the excitement, camaraderie and unity of world Scouting doesn't end when the tents come down in West Virginia. In 2020, the BSA will send a contingent of Scouts and adult leaders to international Scouting events in Brazil and Poland. Registered BSA members who meet the age requirements are invited to attend as participants or unit leaders. They also may apply to serve on staff, known in world Scouting parlance as the International Service Team.

For each event, the cost for youth and adult participants includes event registration, round-trip travel, custom contingent swag and event-specific insurance.



JamCam 2020

- What: The Interamerican Region JamCam, bringing together Scouts and leaders from all over North America, Central America, South America and the Caribbean. It's a weeklong jamboree/camporee (hence the name JamCam) that aims to strengthen the bonds of Scout values.
- When: Jan. 4 to 10, 2020
- Where: Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, the main base for visiting the famous Iguaçu Waterfalls
- Age requirements (youth): Boys or girls must be age 15 to 17 (with birthdays between Jan. 11, 2002, and Jan. 3, 2005)
- Age requirements (adults): Unit Leaders must be age 21 or older (birthday before Jan. 4, 1999); members of the International Service must be 18 or older (birthday before Jan. 4, 2002)
- Cost: \$4,400 for youth participants or adult until leaders, \$780 for members of the International Service Team (IST fee does not include travel)
- Learn more at www.scouting.org/international/events/jamcam-2020/

European Jamboree 2020

- What: The European Jamboree, the first such event since 2005. Participants will use their Scouting skills to make new friends and learn how to make a difference in the world.
- When: July 27 to Aug. 6, 2020
- Where: Gdańsk, Poland
- Age requirements (youth): Boys or girls must be age 14 to 17 (with birthdays between Aug. 6, 2002, and July 26, 2006)
- Age requirements (adults): Unit Leaders must be age 21 or older (birthday before July 27, 1999); members of the International Service must be 18 or older (birthday before July 27, 2002)
- Cost: \$3,300 for youth participants or adult until leaders, \$650 for members of the International Service Team (IST fee does not include travel)
- Learn more at www.scouting.org/international/events/european-jamboree-2020/

Michael's Woodshop



Michael's Woodshop is one of the newest additions to the facilities at Camp William B. Snyder. It is a well outfitted shop with tools and work space to complete almost any wood working project. For a more detailed view of the tools and workspace, please view the photo gallery on the camp website.

Michael's Woodshop is available for use by Scouts and Units in the National Capital Area Council. Since opening in November 2018 we have had a great deal of activity in the shop. We hosted a series of Pinewood Derby Day workshops (over 250 Cub Scouts attended), held a number of Woodworking Merit Badge sessions, supported two District events and supported many Volunteer Service Days at Camp Snyder. In addition, we hosted our first Eagle Scout Project in May! Shop activities and events are led by an experienced group of volunteer Shop Stewards. Training is available for leaders interested in using the shop or running their own unit events.

Michael's Woodshop may also be reserved for District Events, Unit Activities (all age groups), Eagle Scout Projects and other service projects and activities. Our volunteer Shop Stewards are available to provide assistance with event planning. To register for classes or for information about reserving Michael's Woodshop, please visit the Camp Snyder website at <https://www.gotosnyder.org/>

Michael's Woodshop was constructed and is operated entirely by volunteers. In addition, a majority of the tools and equipment were acquired through donations from the Scouting community. For more information about volunteering or if you would like to donate tools or equipment to the shop, please visit the Camp Snyder website or contact us at Camp.Snyder@Scouting.Org (please include "woodshop" in your email subject line)

Podcasts



August 2019 – Parent Orientation



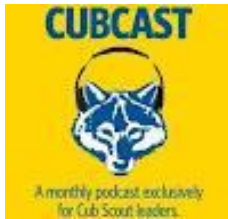
Hopefully your recruiting efforts are bringing lots of new boys and girls into your dens and packs. But welcoming new members also means welcoming new parents, and you need to let those new to the program know what's expected of both the Cub Scout and the parent. We were a little surprised to learn that a lot of packs don't have an orientation for parents.

Jamie Smith started out in Scouting about eight years ago as a concerned parent. That led to becoming den leader, assistant Cubmaster, and then Cubmaster. However, it was the role of a concerned parent that made him an expert on parent orientation. Jamie shares with us why it's important for you to have a parent orientation and what that entails.

Podcast: <https://podcast.scouting.org/cubcast/2019/august-2019-parent-orientation/>



July 2019 – Welcoming All New Families



Sometimes a new family might come in with a little bit of anxiety—maybe they're not exactly sure what they've gotten themselves into—and it's important that we make them comfortable. These new parents are future Cubmasters or den leaders or even just good resources for your den or pack. It's important that we make them feel comfortable and actually glad that they've joined the Cub Scouting family. Joining us is Winnie Lee of Pack 681 in the San Diego-Imperial Council's Rancho Mesa District. As she tells us – it all begins with welcoming the families. How do we do that? Let's find out.

Podcast: <https://podcast.scouting.org/cubcast/2019/july-2019-welcoming-all-new-families/>



July 2019 – Linked Troops



Don't feel silly if you don't know what a linked troop is. Heck—we didn't know either! We heard the term once or twice and decided it might be good to find out more, so let's learn together with our listeners. Please join our new ScoutCast hosts, Anissa Hicks and Ryan Larson, in their inaugural episode with guests Scoutmaster Paige Samdal of Troop 1505 and Neil Goltermann, chartered organization representative for Knox Presbyterian Church of Naperville, Illinois, as we discover the benefits of a linked troop.

Podcast: <https://podcast.scouting.org/scoutcast/2019/july-2019-linked-troops/>



August 2019 – Peer-to-Peer Recruiting



Joining us on ScoutCast to share everything we need to know about peer-to-peer recruiting are Scoutmaster Angie LoSavio and senior patrol leader Karina Venegas of Troop 216 from the Pathway to Adventure Council. Angie has been involved in Scouting over the last eight years, having served as an assistant den leader and an assistant Scoutmaster. She is excited to be the founding Scoutmaster for a troop of girls, whose membership is growing by leaps and bounds thanks to Karina and her impeccable peer-to-peer recruiting skills.

Podcast: <https://podcast.scouting.org/scoutcast/2019/august-2019-peer-to-peer-recruiting/>



Training Opportunities



Pow Wow 2019



Cub Scout Leaders save the date, November 16, 2019, for National Capital Council's Cub Scout Leader's Pow Wow (the Super Bowl of Training for Cub Scout Leaders)

Location: TBD

Date: Saturday, November 16, 2019

Aquatics Supervision Training: Paddle Craft Safety (PCS)



What: This is the hands-on training that is recommended in Safety Afloat guidelines for anyone conducting Scout boating activities. Two versions of the course are offered: The Basic course covers flat water introductory boating skills and basic trip planning. The River course includes skills and knowledge development that are required for conducting trips on moving water. The Basic course is a prerequisite for the moving water course.

These courses are required for any NCAC Scouters who are leading James River Canoe Treks out of the Lenhok'sin High Adventure Camp.

Who: Older youth (min. 15 years old) and adult leaders.

Where/When:

- Basic sessions .
 - September 21, 2019, 9am-5pm Camp William B. Snyder. Registration deadline: Sept 16
- River sessions.
 - September 22, 2019, 9am-5pm Potomac River. Registration deadline: Sept 16

Cost: \$30

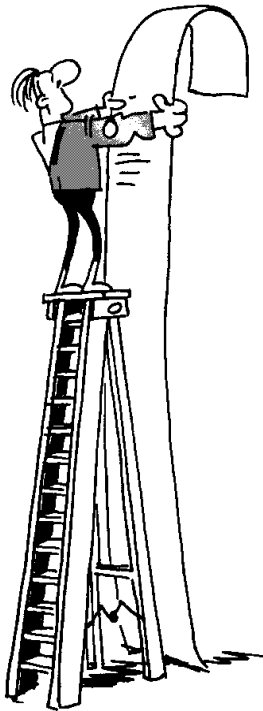
Cost: \$30 + \$30 for the required textbook: BSA's Aquatics Supervision

Cost: \$50

Registration:

- basic - <https://scoutingevent.com/082-25420>
- river - <https://scoutingevent.com/082-25419>

District Calendar



August 2019

- 14 Roundtable
- 14 OA Chapter Meeting
- 22 First Day of School
- 28 District Committee & Commissioner Staff Mtg

September 2019

- 2 Labor Day
- 11 Roundtable
- 11 OA Chapter Meeting
- 25 District Committee & Commissioner Staff Mtg

October 2019

- 9 **Program Launch**
- 9 OA Chapter Meeting
- 12-13 **Webelos-o-ree**
- 14 Columbus Day
- 23 District Committee & Commissioner Staff Mtg
- 28 Student Holiday

November 2019

- 2 **SFF Post-it Note Distribution**
- 9 **SFF Food Pickup**
- 13 Roundtable
- 13 OA Chapter Meeting
- 27 District Committee & Commissioner Staff Mtg
- 27-29 School Holiday
- 30 **Final Date for Recharter Turn In**

December 2019

- 11 Roundtable
- 11 OA Chapter Meeting
- 18 **Annual District Business Meeting**
- 23-31 Winter Break

January 2020

- 1 Holiday
- 8 Roundtable
- 8 OA Chapter Meeting
- 20 MLK Jr. Day
- 21 Moveable School Holiday
- 22 District Committee & Commissioner Staff Mtg

February 2020

- 7 Scout Jumuah
- 8 Scout Sabbath
- 9 Scout Sunday
- 12 Roundtable
- 12 OA Chapter Meeting
- 17 President's Day
- 26 District Committee & Commissioner Staff Mtg

March 2020

- 2 School Holiday
- 7 **District Pinewood Derby**
- 11 Roundtable
- 11 OA Chapter Meeting
- 25 District Committee & Commissioner Staff Mtg
- 27 School Holiday
- 27-29 **Spring Camporee**

April 2020

- 6-10 School Holiday
- 8 Roundtable
- 8 OA Chapter Meeting
- 22 District Committee & Commissioner Staff Mtg

May 2020

- 13 Roundtable
- 13 OA Chapter Meeting
- 25 Memorial Day
- 27 District Committee & Commissioner Staff Mtg

June 2020

- 10 Roundtable
- 10 OA Chapter Meeting
- 24 District Committee & Commissioner Staff Mtg

May 2020

- 4 Fourth of Duly